

Features of Effective District Policies on Bullying, Intimidation and Harassment - November, 2005

School district policies that comply with the Montana Board of Public Education Position Statement on Bullying, Intimidation and Harassment Prevention Policies have the following features:

1. Define bullying, intimidation and harassment in a manner that distinguishes this behavior from other aggression;
2. Acknowledge that victims of such behavior are often targeted because of their perceived vulnerabilities which often include, but are not limited to, the victim's race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, culture, social origin or condition, political affiliation, mental, physical or sensory disability, and other attributes or abilities;
3. Prohibit bullying by students and staff and provides consequences;
4. Establish that the policy applies to behavior on school grounds as well as at school sponsored activities;
5. Encourage students and parents to report bullying and establishes procedures to do so;
6. Require teachers and school staff to report bullying and establishes procedures to do so;
7. Prohibit retaliation and reprisals against persons who report bullying incidents;
8. Require that the administration promptly investigates the reported incidents and establishes procedures to do so;
9. Identify the expectations of students, staff, administrators and volunteers to create a positive climate of safety and respect for others and requires and encourages bullying prevention education in schools;
10. Require that all students and staff are provided notice and training regarding the policy.